

Feb. 20, 2017

Dear CT Legislators,

I am writing today to urge you to maintain the current level of funding for CT libraries. Library services are vital to the residents of our state, especially our students. I am a school librarian in Wallingford and I rely on the services supported by the state library in many ways. The state services fill in for what my own school's budget could never support. For example, the Nutmeg Book Award program is supported by the state library. This program promotes reading for pleasure among students in grades 2-12 by selecting high quality titles for students to read and then vote for their favorite. Through the state services, I borrow sets of Nutmeg nominated books for my students to read so that they may take part in this program. It is a phenomenal way to get kids excited about reading. My budget does not support the purchase of multiple copies of these titles. In addition, we borrow from the state library service centers throughout the year, both books and instructional materials. My library program is greatly enhanced by the services our state library has to offer.

A strong library system promotes strong communities and a strong democracy. Libraries are a great equalizer for our communities, allowing all residents access to the same information resources. Tough economic times are exactly when people rely on their libraries the most. Please do not dismantle the phenomenal CT library system. Its far-reaching effects would be devastating for our schools and communities.

Sincerely,

Anne Porier  
School Librarian  
10 Simpson Ave.  
Wallingford CT